STATEMENT

TV Projects (As on 30.11.96)

State		Under Implementation
Maharashtra	PPC	
		Mumbai (Exp.)
		Nagpur (Aug.)
		Pune
	LPT	
		Shirpur
		Navapur
		Mangaon
		Khopoli
		Mahad
		Umarkhed
		Satana
		Sironcha
		Chandur
		Aheri
		Chikoli
		Ambet
VLPT		
		Malwan
		Malkapur
		Bhokar
		Badlapur

Indian Post Office Act, 1898

4089. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the present Indian Post Office Act, 1898 has become obsolete in view of the change in the present modern day system;

(b) if so, whether the Government have set up any committee to examine the whole issue and suggest ways and means for amending the present status;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Indian Post Office Act, 1898 has stood the test of time but in view of the changing socio-economic scenario worldwide, some of its provisions need to be amended.

(b) A Committee was set up by the Government to review the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(c) The main recommendations of the Act Review Committee are :

(i) Partial relinquishment of the exclusive privilege of the Central Government to carry letters and allowing private courier to carry letters on obtaining licence under certain given terms and conditions;

(ii) Assumption of more liability by the Postal Department for operation failures;

(iii) Incorporation of suitable, enabling provisions for the introduction of new services; and

(iv) Modifications of the regulations relating to treatment of undeliverable postal articles.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[Translation]

Revenue Earned by Railways

4090. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 162 crores less reveue has been earned by the Railways under the head rail freight during the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any concrete steps to improve the efficiency of railways the said amount is likely to increase during the next half of the current financial year;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the administration and working of the railways; and

(e) the target fixed for earning freight tariff for the financial year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No Sir, the actual shortfall in freight revenue during the first half of the current financial year is Rs. 129.44 crores. This shortall is with reference to the proportionate target upto September, 1996.

(c) and (d). Even though target for quantum of traffic has been achieved, the earnings have fallen short of the target due to change in traffic mix and steps have been taken to carry more high profit yielding commodities.

(e) The target fixed for earning freight traffic for the financial year 1996-97 is Rs. 16975.00 crores.